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Sustainable development: implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development and of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development

Letter dated 16 April 2015 from the representatives of Germany and the Republic of Moldova to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

We are pleased to submit to you the Chisinau Outcome Statement on Strengthening Capacities and Building Effective Institutions for the Implementation of the Post-2015 Development Agenda (see annex). The Statement was endorsed by high-level representatives and experts participating in the High-Level Meeting of the Global Dialogue on Strengthening Capacities and Building Effective Institutions, which took place on 25 and 26 February 2015 in Chisinau, Republic of Moldova, and was co-hosted by the Republic of Moldova and Germany, in partnership with the United Nations Development Programme and the International Labour Organization.

We would be grateful if the present letter and the aforementioned Outcome Statement could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly under agenda item 19 (a).

(*Signed*) Heiko **Thoms**
Ambassador
Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the
Permanent Mission of Germany to the United Nations

(*Signed*) Vlad **Lupan**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of the
Republic of Moldova to the United Nations

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Annex to the letter dated 16 April 2015 from the representatives of Germany and the Republic of Moldova to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Chisinau Outcome Statement on Strengthening Capacities and Building Effective Institutions for the Implementation of the Post-2015 Development Agenda

The high-level representatives, experts and participants attending the High-Level Meeting of the Global Dialogue on Strengthening Capacities and Building Effective Institutions for the Implementation of the Post-2015 Development Agenda, held in Chisinau, Republic of Moldova, on 25 and 26 February 2015,

Reaffirming the overarching commitment to implement the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled "The future we want", endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 66/288,

Acknowledging the proposal of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals, established pursuant to General Assembly resolution 66/288, concerning the development of effective, accountable, inclusive and transparent institutions, ensuring responsive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels, as well as strengthening the means of implementation of sustainable development goals and revitalizing the global partnership for sustainable development,

Recognizing the efforts and initiatives by the United Nations Development Group to support the capacities of States to hold national consultations with a view to localizing the sustainable development goals and emphasizing the concerns and aspirations of people in the context of the post-2015 development agenda, highlighting the participatory, inclusive and interactive character of those consultations, and taking into account the voices of all people,

Considering the synthesis report of the Secretary-General of the United Nations on the post-2015 sustainable development agenda, "The road to dignity by 2030: ending poverty, transforming all lives and protecting the planet" (A/69/700), emphasizing, inter alia, that in order to achieve the sustainable development goals, countries will require integrated institutions that are effective and human resources equipped with the skills and capacities to deliver sustainable development,

Underlining the importance of the Dialogues on the implementation of the post-2015 development agenda, focusing on strengthening capacities and institutions,

1. *Take note with appreciation* of the initiative by the Federal Republic of Germany and the Republic of Moldova to co-host the Global Dialogue on Strengthening Capacities and Building Effective Institutions for the Implementation of the Post-2015 Development Agenda, as well as the support of the United Nations Development Programme and the International Labour Organization in co-facilitating this dialogue;

2. *Highlight* the findings and conclusions of the Expert Meeting held in Bonn, Germany, on 29 and 30 September 2014, as part of the Dialogue, focusing on the four main thematic areas of: (a) upgrading institutions and capacities to deliver

an integrated and inclusive sustainable development agenda; (b) institutions and capacities to address vulnerabilities and strengthen resilience; (c) institutions and capacities for inclusive and sustainable growth, productive transformations and decent jobs; and (d) measuring capacity development and institution-building over time;

3. *Endorse* the key messages of the national dialogues on capacities and institutions for sustainable development held in Costa Rica, Kyrgyzstan, Malaysia, Pakistan, the Republic of Moldova, Rwanda, Togo and Turkmenistan, and emphasize the main recommendations whereby:

(a) A transformative development agenda requires upgraded, innovative and integrated institutions and capacities that are well aligned with development priorities and planning processes at the national and subnational levels;

(b) Coordination and cooperation between agencies and development stakeholders are required for institutions to be more responsive to the needs and priorities of people at the national level;

(c) Inclusion should be the cornerstone of all capacity-strengthening and institution-building efforts, encouraging greater stakeholder engagement, participation and ownership in policy processes, in particular by vulnerable and marginalized people, and fostering accountability and trust in the public sector;

(d) Strategies, policies and solutions for strengthening capacities and institutions must be locally driven and issue-oriented, reflecting the realities of the specific national and subnational contexts;

(e) Public administration systems should strive for greater professionalism, accountability, transparency and staff capacities;

(f) Institutions must facilitate fair economic participation and inclusive and equal opportunities for all people, especially for those living in poverty, through enacting coherent combinations of economic and labour market policies that encourage broad participation in the economy, social dialogue and the creation of decent jobs;

(g) Post-conflict contexts require both shorter and long-term approaches to address institutional weaknesses and ensure stability and expansion of the political settlement;

(h) Local authorities and their associations must be empowered through capacity strengthening and enhanced institutional effectiveness to own and achieve development goals, stimulating community involvement and participation in local development strategies, as well as implementing modern management and planning technologies;

(i) Measuring progress in capacity development and institutional improvement is necessary and feasible and can be enhanced by efforts to upgrade the capacities of relevant stakeholders, including local communities, subnational authorities, civil society representatives and the private sector, to analyse and disseminate data to monitor development progress;

4. *Commit* to take into consideration the recommendations, as specified in paragraph 3 of the present Outcome Statement, for the implementation of innovative

approaches in addressing various institutional and capacity-strengthening requirements at the national level;

5. *Highlight* the need for well-functioning, transparent, inclusive and accountable institutions at every level of the State to promote effective and citizen-orientated service delivery for all population groups as well as transparent and efficient use of public resources;

6. *Underline* the importance of the right to access information concerning public policies, strategic planning and decision-making processes;

7. *Highlight* the necessity of promoting the functioning of the rule of law structures and institutions ensuring that the State's power and authority are tied to democratic principles and protect people from arbitrariness;

8. *Emphasize* the broad understanding of the issue of capacity development and effective, accountable, transparent and inclusive institutions, as reflected in the proposal of the Open Working Group of the General Assembly on Sustainable Development Goals contained in its report (A/68/970 and Corr.1), and reaffirm the need to build up broad political support to promote these priorities in the process of intergovernmental negotiations on the post-2015 development agenda as an important input to the outcome document for adoption at the United Nations summit to be held in September 2015 in accordance with General Assembly resolution 69/244;

9. *Reaffirm* the importance of considering strengthening capacities and building effective institutions in the intergovernmental negotiations on the post-2015 development agenda as an important input to the outcome document for adoption at the United Nations summit to be held in September 2015 in accordance with General Assembly resolution 69/244;

10. *Encourage* governments to invest in capacities for sustainable development, including investments in information and communication technologies and e-governance initiatives, valuable and innovative tools for improving institutional effectiveness and allowing for wider participation and connection between governments, the private sector, local communities, civil society groups, development organizations, citizens and other stakeholders in decision-making processes that affect people;

11. *Express* our resolve to mainstream the issue of effective institutions and capacity development in the national development strategies and policies in the context of efforts to achieve the sustainable development goals;

12. *Reaffirm* our commitment to cooperate and engage through multilateral, regional, bilateral and public-private partnership initiatives aiming at exchanging experiences and best practices in the area of effective institutions and capacity development;

13. *Urge* the United Nations Development Group to continue to focus attention on the issue of strengthening capacities and building effective, accountable and inclusive institutions, taking into account the key messages of the Dialogue, in the planning and implementation of its programme activities and partnership-building;

14. *Stress* the importance of establishing suitable financing mechanisms to support the strengthening of capacities and building effective institutions at all levels, including through the localization of resources alongside localizing the sustainable development goals, and recommend that this issue be considered at the third International Conference on Financing for Development in July 2015 in Addis Ababa;

15. *Decide* to inform the intergovernmental negotiations on the post-2015 development agenda and the sustainable development goals about the results of this High-Level Meeting of the Global Dialogue on Strengthening Capacities and Building Effective Institutions for the Implementation of the Post-2015 Development Agenda, and resolve to circulate the present Outcome Statement to the States Members of the United Nations and other relevant forums.